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Editorial Notes

From the "New York Observer" we learn that on September 25 the Rev. Augustus E. Stoddard, the leading editor of that paper, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination by preaching in the North Church of New York City (formerly Manhattanville) the same sermon which he preached there fifty years ago. Since 1883 he has labored continuously as editor of the "New York Observer," and has wielded a mighty influence for good.

The following action of the General Assembly, at its last meeting, should be remembered and impressed upon the church: "The General Assembly never intentionally or consciously discriminates between Home and Foreign Mission work as to the importance of their respective claims. It hereby respectfully refers the question of equalizing the two in the work of the laymen to the laymen of the Church, to act upon at such time and in such manner as they may deem best."

One can hardly help wondering why the Laymen's Missionary Movement in our church and in the Northern Church has limited itself to the cause of foreign missions, leaving out the great home needs and opportunities and calls, passing by the millions of home people and foreign speaking people at our very doors, while all the other denominations engaged in the movement, both here and in Canada, are directing the movement's energies to missions without any distinction between home and foreign missions.

Home and foreign missions get very close together in some parts of our church's history. It is hard to tell

them apart. And the true heart of the church will not wish to discriminate between them. The foreigners at our doors and the foreigners abroad should alike have the gospel given to them. The duty to do this is ours.

The hundreds of thousands of Spanish speaking people in Texas, and the hundreds of thousands of French, Italian and Spanish speaking people in Louisiana are worthy of the attention of our church. Work amongst them has already produced sufficient fruit to justify greatly enlarged efforts to teach them a pure religion and to give them the Word of God.

The International Uniform Lessons for 1910 will all be in the Gospel of Matthew, except the temperance and certain holiday lessons. Ernest Renan pronounced the First Gospel "the most important book of Christendom—the most important book which has ever been written." A tax gatherer in Galilee, with a seat in the custom house at Capernaum, called by the Master himself. Matthew became an apostle, and by training "a ready writer," fitted to be the author of a gospel narrative. To his Hebrew countrymen he commends Jesus the Nazarene as the Messiah of their prophet, and especially records the teachings of our Lord. There will be a great and earnest study of the First Gospel, and we hope a great blessing as we are brought face to face with Him "who spake as never man spake."

The campaign of education planned by the Laymen's Missionary Movement for this fall and winter is on an extensive scale. Beginning in Richmond, Virginia, October 23 to 25, there are to be about seventy conventions in important centers from the Atlantic to the Pacific. These great meetings, interdenominational and evangelical, will culminate in a representative gathering in May next in the city of Chicago. The South has held the honored place of leadership in the development of this whole movement, and it is generally conceded that the movement is better organized in the churches of the South than in any other part of the world. The purpose is practical, the immediate end in view being to increase the giving of the laymen, through their own churches and boards. But since men can not be expected to give to causes in which they are not interested, the conventions will be rich in educational and inspirational features. Not the least fruit will be the cultivation of the spirit of Christian brotherhood, the moving with touching shoulders to the conquest of the world.